South African Radio League   Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Smart Metering by Power Companies

Smart Metering could become a serious threat for amateur radio world wide, when wide band is used.

The EUROCOM Working Group chaired by Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, produces the EUROCOM Newsletter, which can be downloaded from the web at www.darc.de/ausland/iaru/eurocom/

At the EUROCOM WG meeting in Friedrichshafen, member Societies were invited to forward information concerning power companies planning power line communications for collecting metering data, and possibly the frequencies under consideration.

Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE provided input, which has been published in the 07 July 2008 issue of the newsletter. The report mentions that IBM is already using frequencies up to 1.5 MHz and the concern is that over time frequencies will rise. The newsletter containing the report by Thilo Kootz, DL9KCE can be downloaded from www.darc.de/ausland/iaru/eurocom/News0308.pdf.

Google Translation of article [1] referenced in the report http://tinyurl.com/55fgsj

JULY

2 DARC Midwinter Sprint
7 Hamnet Bulletin
8 Closing date SARL Top Band logs
12/13 IARU HF Championships
14 Schools open – all provinces; closing date for Digital contest logs
17 Closing date Midwinter Sprint logs
20 Delville Wood Sunday; SARL Presidents Net
26/27 Islands on the Air Contest
27 Boland ARC 40 Metre Contest

SARL Contests exchanges and scoring...

Pierre, ZS6BQS writes, "I would like to appeal to the sponsors of the various South African contests, SARL / PEARS and...

Please consider using the Maiden head locator system in the future SSB, CW and Digital contests, sprints and QSO parties.

The motivation for the above request is as follows:

The Maidenhead locator system is simple and less prone to errors in terms of position reporting.

The exchange during the contest can be RST and Locator, or better still Name and Locator. Since during contests all RST are 599 anyway? If the station does not know his or her locator, a substitute could be the town or suburb. This information can then be determined from other sources (SARL web site, maps, Google Earth etc...)

The exchange is predictable i.e. always will be something along the lines of KG43eu. It might be an idee to use all 6 characters but for the scoring only the first four are used i.e. KG43.

The system will be efficient for both SSB and CW operations. The scoring will be *much* easier.

Amateur Radio - Home of the Good Guys

I would suggest that it simply would be multiplying the number of unique QSO by the number of unique grid squares (4 char) to obtain the band score. The total score would then be the various band scores added together. Additional multipliers can then be used to modify the final score for power category, field station etc...

Nice and simple, easy for the person submitting the log and easy for the person checking the logs.

The present rules and scoring system very complicated and possibly, it might be the reason why many do not submit logs?

I hope that this appeal receives your consideration. Feedback and discussion would be most welcome."

Contest Results

Here are the corrected results for the SARL Top Band QSO Party run from 18 to 23 June 2008.

1st Gary Immelman, ZS6YI 366 points
2nd Ed Willers, ZS6UT, 294 points
3rd Jacques Vermeulen, ZS1WC 228 points
4th Peter Jendrissek, ZS1JX, 206 points
5th Jan Botha, ZS4JAN 165 points
6th Willie Hewitt, ZS2CC 163 points
7th Dennis Green, ZS4BS 112 points
8th Bloemfontein RAC, ZS4BFN 103 points
9th Tienie Herbst, ZS6MHH 17 points
10th SA Armour Museum, ZS4AFV 8 points

Check Logs
Vidi la Grange, ZS1EL 74 points
Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE 23 points

DX from Africa

Mozambique, C9 (Update/Reminder). Just a reminder that Frosty's, K5LBU, team will be active this week from Mozambique. They should be on the air starting the night of 16 July to 30 July. They will have two complete stations; one for CW and one for SSB. The updated C9 team now consists of the following operators:
Charles F. Frost (Frosty), K5LBU - C91CF, QSL via home call sign.
Tom Kramer, NQ7R - C91TK, QSL via home call sign.
Jay Sewell, W5SL - C91SL, QSL via home call sign.
John Plenderleith, 9M6XRO - C91XO*, QSL via M3SDE.
Bill Dzurilla, NZ5N - C91BD, QSL via WA4WTG.
Bob Novak, K0OK - C91OK*, QSL via home call sign.
Ben Pyfer, DJ0YI - C91YI *, QSL via home call sign.
* Call sign pending
Activity will be on all bands from 160 - 6 this trip. They will have a log search on the Web some time after their operations start at http://www.tdxs.net/C9.html

Amateur Radio - Home of the Good Guys

Marion Island, ZS8T. "We are all patiently awaiting Petrus to activate ZS8T", Rhynhardt Louw, ZS6DXB said in his latest press release dated 8 July. "We are not in the position to promise any dates currently and are crossing fingers that we will be able to bring a full report soon. For the time being guys please be patient as we all await the activation of ZS8T." Bookmark http://zs8t.net for further updates and announcements.

Ghana, 9G. Stefan, DL5XX will be in Ghana for a business trip from 12 July to 10 August. He plans to operate on all bands CW as 9G5MM during his spare time (do not expect him to be active before 15 July). QSL via home call.

Canary Islands, EA8. A large group of operators from the Canary Islands, mainland Spain and Germany will participate in the IOTA Contest as AN8L [Multi-Op/High-Power] from Lobos Island, AF-008 (DIE S-008, WLOTA LH-0155). QSL via EC8AMI , direct or bureau. Further information will be available on www.islotedelobos.com. Team members mentioned are EA8AUW, EA8BGO, EC8AMI, EC8ADW, DH1TW, DL5RMH, EC4DX, EC4JD, EA4DRV, EA4TD, EA4ATA, EA5FX, EA5KM and EA5AER.

Ascension Island, ZD8. Steve, G3ZVW will be active again as ZD8N from Ascension Island (AF-003) from 27 August to 11 September. He will be running 100 watts to dipoles on the HF bands, and activity will be mainly during his evenings and the weekends, SSB, CW and RTTY. QSL via G3ZVW, direct or bureau.

Mayotte Island, FH (AF-027). Alain, FH/F6BFH, will be active on CW and SSB from Mayotte (AF-027) between 9 Jul and 9 Aug. Special emphasis will be put on the low bands. Alain confirms QSL cards very reliably via the bureau.

French Sub-Antarctic Islands (Attention DXpeditioners)

According to Mehdi, F5PFP (FT5ZH), you may be able to activate FT5X, FT5W and FT5Z. He states (edited), "… it is possible to accompany the French staff members to Crozet (FT5W), Kerguelen (FT5X) and Amsterdam (FT5Z) Islands, 4 times per year. The oceanographic and supply ship 'Marion Dufresne' (110 metres long, 110 passengers and 35 crewmembers) is used to take 10 – 20 tourists. Each archipelago is visited and supplied - 3 to 8 days per island).

An amateur radio license can be issued by the TAAF administration to any citizen belonging to one of the CEPT countries. They are allowed to operate under FT5X, FT5W, FT5Z /own call sign, without submitting any request. The trip costs 6500 Euros, of course, it is expensive but it is a trip to paradise... flying over Amsterdam and Kerguelen by helicopter is unforgettable, believe me…

Next rotations, from Reunion Island, then returning back to Reunion Island are 3 November to 1 December 2008 and 3 December to 31 December 2008. The 2009 calendar will be soon available."

Contest Calendar
This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 14 to 21 July 2008

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint   │   00:30 - 02:30 UTC 17 Jul

Amateur Radio - Home of the Good Guys

Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC No or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23 July 2008
E-mail logs to: naqcc33[at]alltel[dot]net
Post log summary at:
www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/sprint_submit_log.html
Mail logs to: Tom Mitchell, KB3LFC, RD6 Box 122A, Kittanning, PA 16201, USA
Find rules at:
www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/sprint200807.html

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 Jul
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40 and 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, name and your state, province or country
Work stations: Dupes allowed after at least one intervening QSO
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 July 2008
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.htm

Feld Hell Sprint
02:00 - 03:00 UTC 19 Jul; 10:00 - 11:00 UTC 19 Jul and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC 19 Jul
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: FH Club Member: RST, state, province or country and member no; non-Member: RST, state, province or country and age
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with FH Club member
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province and country once only
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 1 August 2008
E-mail logs to:
feldhellcontest[at]comcast[dot]net
Post log summary at:
www.bambinomusical.com/autolog.html
Mail logs to: John Graf, WA6L, 23085 Old Ranch Rd, Alpine, CA 91901, USA
Find rules at:
http://feldhellclub.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=60&Itemid=70

Russian Radio Team Championship
07:00 - 14:59 UTC 19 Jul
Mode: CW and SSB
Bands: 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op – CW, SSB or Mixed – Low or High; Multi-Op
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RRTC: RS(T) and 3-character code; Non-RRTC: RS(T) and ITU Zone No.
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same zone or with RRTC stations; 3 points per QSO with different zone on same continent; 5 points per QSO with different zone on different continent

Multipliers: Each ITU zone once per band; Each RRTC 3-character code once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 July 2008
E-mail logs to: ochr[at]srr[dot]ru
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.srr.ru/CONTEST/rules_ozchr_08.pdf

VK/Trans-Tasman 160 m CW Contest
08:00 - 13:00 UTC 19 Jul
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op; Single Op QRP
Max power: non-QRP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Serial No
Work stations: Once per hour
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 11 August 2008
E-mail logs to: VK:
vktasman[at]hotmail[dot]com;
ZL: vktasman[at]robglassey[dot]com
Mail logs to: VK: VK/trans-Tasman Contest; 28 Crampton Crescent; Rosanna, VIC 3084; Australia; ZL: VK/trans-Tasman Contest; PO Box 21-363; Christchurch 8143; New Zealand
Find rules at:
http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman/RULES.HTM

DMC RTTY Contest
12:00 UTC 19 Jul to 12:00 UTC 20 Jul
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op – Low or High; Multi-Single
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RST and Serial No
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each DXCC country and each JA, W, VE and VK call areas once; each continent once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x continents x total DXCC/call area mults
Submit logs by: 20 August 2008
E-mail logs to:

dmcrtty[at]digital-modes-club[dot]org
Mail logs to: DMC Contest Committee; PO Box 8; 6000 Stara Zagora; Bulgaria
Find rules at:
www.digital-modes-club.org/dmccontest.htm

North American RTTY QSO Party
18:00 UTC 19 Jul to 06:00 UTC 20 Jul
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op – QRP or Low; Multi-Two - Low
Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours; Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province and country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 August 2008
E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)
Upload log at:
www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php
Mail logs to: Shelby Summerville, K4WW, 6506 Lantana Ct., Louisville, KY 40229-1544, USA
Find rules at: www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

RSGB Low Power Field Day
09:00 - 12:00 UTC and 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 20 Jul
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 and 40 m
Classes: Single Op – Fixed or Portable 10 W; Single Op – Fixed or Portable 3W; Multi-Op – Fixed or Portable 10 W; Multi-Op – Fixed or Portable 3W
Exchange: RST, Serial No and Power
QSO Points: 15 points per QSO with QRP portable/mobile station; 10 points

per QSO with QRP fixed station; 5 points per QSO with non-QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 5 August 2008
E-mail logs to:
lowpower[dot]logs[at]rsgbhfcc[dot]org
Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England
Find rules at:
www.contesting.co.uk/hfcc/rules/2008/rqrp.shtml

CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush
20:00 - 21:59 UTC 20 Jul
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: W: Wire antennas; V: Vertical antenna; B: Beam antenna; P: Portable operation, any antenna
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power output
Work stations: Once per 30 minutes (max of 3 times)
QSO Points: 3 points per 1st QSO with a station; 2 points per 2nd QSO with a station; 1 point per 3rd QSO with a station; 100 points for 1st QSO with W0CQC
Multipliers: Each state, province, country once; Each club member once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total state, province and country mults x member mults

Submit logs by: 19 August 2008
E-mail logs to: ki0rb[at]arrl[dot]net
Mail logs to: Colorado QRP Club, PO Box 17174, Golden, CO 80402-6019, USA
Find rules at:
www.cqc.org/contests/gold2008.htm

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 Jul
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and Member No or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 28 July 2008
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
www.gentzow.com/fpqrp/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.gentzow.com/fpqrp/fpqrprun.php

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 UTC-02:00 UTC 23 Jul
RSGB 80 m Club Data Championship, 19:00 UTC-20:30 UTC 24 Jul
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 25 Jul
RSGB IOTA Contest, 12:00 UTC 26 Jul to 12:00 UTC 27 Jul
Boland ARC 40 Metre Contest, 13:00 to 16:00 UTC

A Bit Later than Next Week

SARL HF Phone Contest, 13:00 to 16:30 UTC 3 August

Amateur Radio - Home of the Good Guys

SARL 40 metre Mobile and Shack in a Sack Contest, 13:00 to 15:00 UTC 10 August
International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, 16 and 17 August
SARL HF CW Contest, 14:00 to 16:00 UTC 31 August

LOTW Nets

Neil, W3ZQI, reports, "The first weekly 'Logbook of the World Net' (LOTW-Nets) is now in operation. Meeting each Monday evening at 23:59 UTC, this net meets on 14.270 MHz (increment +5 as required if QRM). Additional frequencies and dates are proposed.

The LOTW DX and WAS nets are to help awards chasers find needed DX and WAS stations that are willing to QSL via the ARRL's 'Logbook of The World' system. This net and E-mail group are open to all amateur radio operators that are willing to QSL via LoTW. Netlogger is used (optional)." The whole purpose of the nets is "Work those needed band/entities and have confirmations usable toward ARRL awards in hours, not months or years."

Reference Web pages are:

LOTW-Nets reflector: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LoTW-Nets/messages

ARRL Logbook of the World: http://www.arrl.org/lotw/

Free Netlogger download: http://netlogger.org/download.html

LOTW-Nets website: TBA (To Be Announced)

Boland ARC 40 Metre Contest

Aim: this is a fun activity to promote contacts on 40 metres between radio amateurs in Southern African countries.

Date and Time: the forth Sunday of July from 13:00 to 16:00 UTC [15:00 to 18:00 CAT] [27 July 2008]

3. Exchange: the exchange is call sign, RS and postal code.

4. Frequency: it is a phone only contest on the 40-metre band

5. Antennas and Power: only wire antennas and a maximum output of 100 watt may be used.

6. Scoring: contacts with Southern African stations are worth 1 point. The Boland ARC club station, ZS1BAK, will be activated and a contact with this station counts 5 points, only one contact is allowed.

7. Log Sheets: log sheets shall be submitted within 15 days after the contest and can be sent by e-mail to zs1bak@mailbox.co.za or by snail mail to BARK, PO Box 2105, Dennesig, 7601.

8. Awards: a certificate will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in South Africa, as well as the highest score in each division. The BARC member with the highest score will also receive a certificate.

9. Closing date for log submission: 11 August 2008.

Letsplayradio has sponsored a VX3 handheld radio, all logs submitted with 20 or more contacts will be entered into the lucky draw for this handheld radio.